



TEXAS CENTER  
FOR THE JUDICIARY

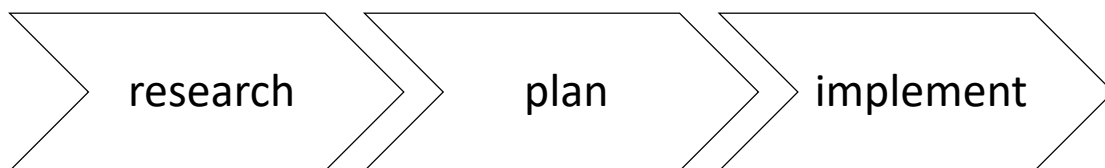
## 2018 Child Welfare Judicial Conference

Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care Update

Judge Darlene Byrne & Jocelyn Fowler

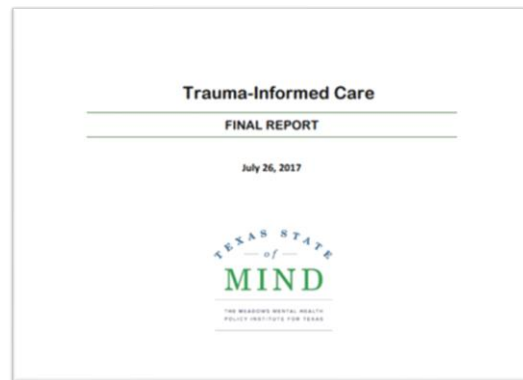
November 12, 2018

## Path to Trauma-Informed Care



## SCTIC Background

- An initiative of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission
- Follows a study by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute on Trauma Informed Care in Texas
- The SCTIC was launched on July 28, 2017



## Trauma-Informed Care Findings

- Child-serving systems are training staff in trauma-informed care.
- Despite the availability of training that addresses understanding and treating trauma, there is still an expressed need to train child welfare staff and foster parents.
- The main child-serving systems in the state of Texas have taken some steps towards becoming trauma-informed.
- The primary cross-system trauma-informed approaches being implemented in Texas are all based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research and are grounded in the same trauma-informed framework.

## Trauma-Informed Care Findings, cont.

- Reaching Teens© and TBRI© provide a philosophical framework, shared language, and common set of approaches that allow providers in a community to operationalize the concept of trauma-informed care. These two approaches are easy to understand and can be implemented by a large cross-section of professionals, parents, and foster parents.
- In addition to a shared approach, successful trauma-informed cross-system efforts in Texas all have an external funder and a community champion.

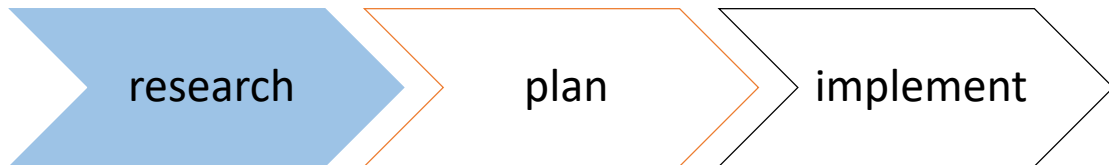


## Trauma-Informed Care Findings, cont.

- The local mental health authorities are limited to a core set of trauma-focused interventions that limit their ability to select an intervention based on the child's or youth's trauma history, needs, or brain development.
- Medicaid (STAR Health) pays for traditional office-based trauma-informed services and supports, and STAR Health provides training in TF-CBT and PCIT. However, providers still identified funding as a barrier to expanding TF-EBT capacity.



## Path to Trauma-Informed Care



## Statewide Strategy

The SCTIC will elevate trauma-informed policy in the Texas child welfare system by creating a statewide strategy to support:

- system reform;
- organizational leadership;
- cross-systems collaboration; and
- community-led efforts with data-informed initiatives to develop champions, consensus, and funding.



## System Reform Current Status



### System Reform Workgroup

**Goal #1:**

All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are served by a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive child welfare system.

**Chair:**

Andy Homer, *Texas CASA*



## System Reform Members

- Attorneys
- DFPS
- Legislative Offices
- Medical Professionals
- Providers
- Superior Health
- Advocacy & Policy:
  - Behavioral Health
  - Child Development
  - Medical
  - Parents
  - Persons with Disabilities



## System Reform Themes

- Definition needed for common framework
- Neutral on modality or system approach utilized
- Truly a “system reform;” not focused on DFPS & courts alone
- Lived experiences are essential
- Evaluate existing practices and policies through a trauma-informed lens



## System Reform Themes, cont.

- Multi-level training appropriate to role
- Minimize and avoid re-traumatization through training and awareness
- Improve information sharing
- Integrate trauma-knowledge into appropriately-tailored safety plans, service plans, permanency plans, and court orders for the child and family



## Organizational Leadership Current Status

# Organizational Leadership Workgroup

## Goal #2:

All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are supported by a culture of trauma-informed care, practical training, and tools within the child welfare system.

## Chair:

Renee Encinias, *Hope Rising Ministries*



# Organizational Leadership Members

- Attorneys
- DFPS
- Superior Health Plan
- Providers
- Legislative Offices
- Advocacy & Policy:
  - Behavioral Health
  - Medical
  - Social Workers
  - Youth Voice



## Organizational Leadership Themes

- Leadership should assess policy, training, and practices for trauma-informed and trauma-responsive
- Leadership should promote a culture that integrates youth and family voice
- Neutral on modality or system approach utilized
- Leadership should address secondary trauma & create action plans



## Organizational Leadership Themes, cont.

- Best practice would be that everyone who touches the life of a child would be trained in trauma-informed care
- Balance best practice with not overwhelming already stressful and over-tasked roles or creating further capacity issues
- Training will include information on how trauma can disproportionately impact diverse populations
- Minimize and avoid re-traumatization through training and awareness





## Cross-Systems Collaboration Current Status



### Cross-Systems Collaboration Workgroup

**Goal #3:**

All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are served by multiple systems that collaborate to create consistent trauma-informed care and/or practice in all parts of their lives.

**Chair:**

Christine Gendron, *Texas Network of Youth Services*



## Cross-Systems Collaboration Members

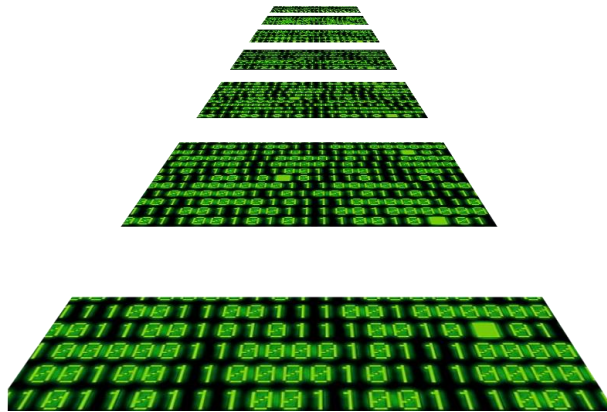
- Attorneys
- DFPS
- HHSC (multiple depts.)
- Juvenile Justice Programs
- Legislative Offices
- Superior Health
- Texas Workforce
- Trauma-Informed Specialists
- Providers
- Advocacy and Policy:
  - Behavioral Health
  - CASA
  - Child Development
  - Homelessness
  - Medical
  - Parents
  - Persons with Disabilities
  - Youth Voice



## Cross-Systems Collaboration Themes

- Cross-systems work needs to happen at all levels: state leadership level to the community level
- Multi-disciplinary approaches are needed
- Special population cross systems: more work needs to be done to take a cross-system look at trauma-informed for special populations
- Substantial training is needed across systems and there are opportunities to maximize efficiency to make this happen





## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Current Status



## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Workgroup

### Goal #4:

Trauma-informed and trauma-responsive interventions will be data-driven, effective, and sustainable.

**Chair:** Katy Bourgeois, *Mission Capital*



## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Members

- Attorneys
- Child and Family Advocates
- DFPS
- Funders
- Legislative Offices
- Providers
- Researchers



## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes

- **Broad agreement on the importance of:**
  - Ability to disaggregate data
  - Assessment of impact on diverse populations
- **Identify Funding**
  - Educate community organizations & funders
  - Evaluate cost reimbursement methodology
  - Support sustainable public funding



## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes, cont.

- **Define Need**

- Make an online self assessment tool available
- Encourage learning collaboratives
- Measure trauma experienced in the system



## Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes, cont.

- **Evaluate**

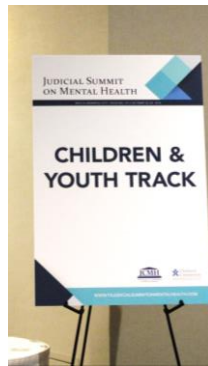
- Assess, plan, implement, re-assess, & revise
- Screen for trauma experiences over time
- Measure adjustment to trauma experiences: physical, mental, and emotional health
- Ensure data collection and reporting processes allow for tracking child-level outcomes



## Overarching Themes

- Web-based portal to allow for information sharing across disciplines
- All children and families should be viewed through a trauma-informed lens
- Diverse populations and perspectives are essential to the development, adoption, and implementation of a trauma-informed child welfare system.

## Judicial Summit on Mental Health

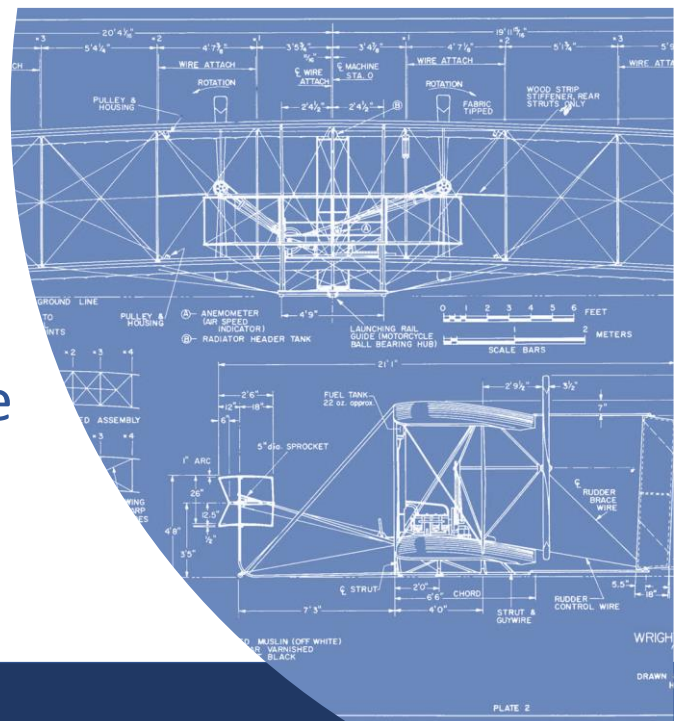


## Full SCTIC Meeting

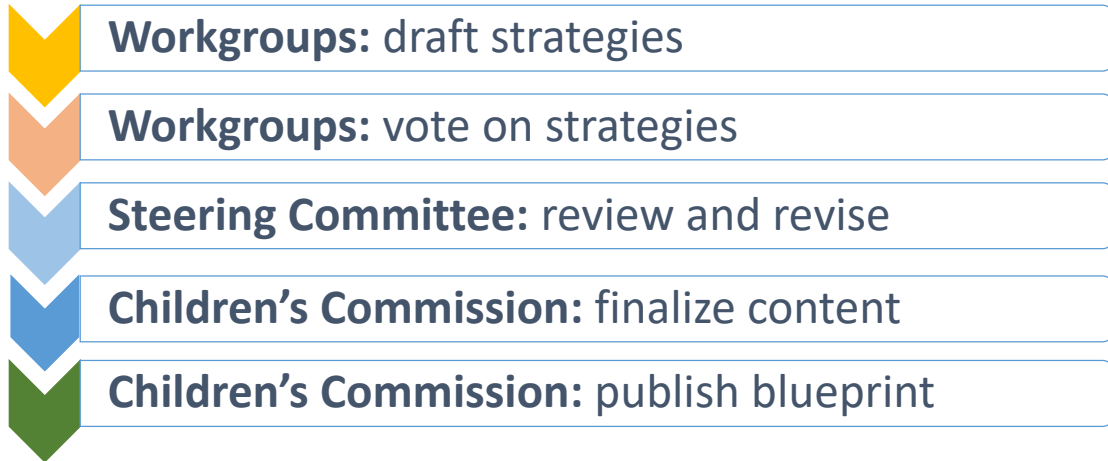


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## The Texas Blueprint: Trauma-Informed Care



## Blueprint Process



## Steering Committee

- Tina Amberboy
- Kristene Blackstone
- Lauren Bledsoe
- Judge Darlene Byrne
- Katy Bourgeois
- Renee Encinias
- Christine Gendron
- Jocelyn Fowler
- Andy Homer

## Path to Trauma-Informed Care



## Implementation Takes a Village

- Culture shifts take time
- We are not building a silo
- All child welfare system stakeholders needed
- Communication across systems is crucial



## Why This Matters for You?

- Unique vantage point
- Unique leadership role
- Power to convene stakeholders & community collaborators



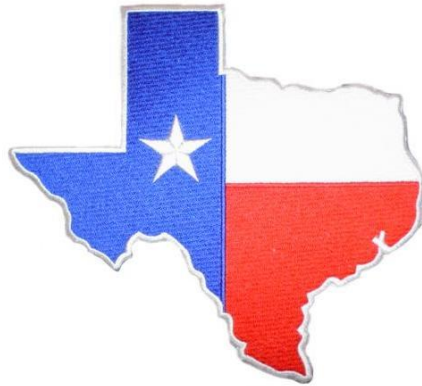
## Why This Matters for You?

- No child goes into or out of foster care without your signature and oversight



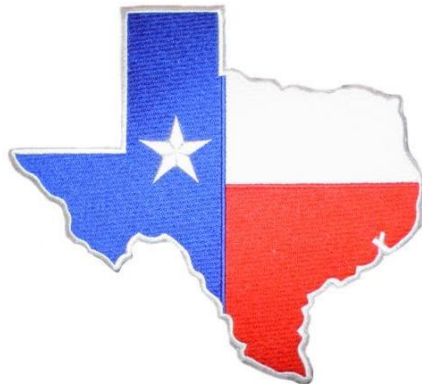
## Why This Matters for Texas?

- Building a common framework to help families heal and thrive
- Build on unique rural and urban community strengths and assess gaps



## Why This Matters for Texas?

- Better outcomes for kids and families
- Moving the state forward



**“It is easier to build strong children than to  
repair broken men”**

**- Frederick Douglass**

**Judge Darlene Byrne**

Darlene.Byrne@traviscountytexas.gov

**Jocelyn Fowler**

Jocelyn.Fowler@txcourts.gov

